

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00091 101349Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
ICA-11 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 /068 W  
-----069783 102051Z /66  
R 101200Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2903  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0091

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, PINT, GR  
SUBJECT: TOBACCO FARMERS DEMONSTRATE FOR MORE GOVERNMENT  
AID

REF: 77 THESSALONIKI A-10

1. OVER PAST WEEKEND THREE HUNDRED TOBACCO FARMERS DROVE  
THEIR TRACTORS ONTO A MAJOR ROAD NEAR YIANNITZA, NORTHERN  
GREECE, TO PRESS DEMANDS FOR HIGHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT  
PRICES. THEY WERE MET BY HEAVY POLICE CONTINGENTS, INCLUDING  
ARMORED CARS, AND WERE ONLY ABLE TO BLOCK ONE LANE OF  
THE ROAD FOR 24 HOURS.

2. THE FARMERS' BASIC DEMAND IS AN INCREASE IN THE  
SUPPORT PRICE FOR BURLEY TOBACCO. THEIR COOPERATIVE  
IS HOLDING 4 MILLION KILOS OF BURLEY AND VARIOUS PRIVATE  
FIRMS IN THE AREA HOLD ANOTHER 2 MILLION KILOS.  
THERE IS CURRENTLY NO COMMERCIAL MARKET FOR THE  
TOBACCO AND THE FARMERS MAINTAIN THAT THE 52 DRACHMA  
PER KILO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PRICE DOES NOT COVER  
THEIR COSTS. RAISING THE SUPPORT PRICE WILL SOLVE  
THE GOG'S PROBLEM WITH THE FARMERS BUT CREATE ONE  
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WITH THE COUNTRY'S CIGARETTE SMOKERS, SINCE BURLEY  
IS USED FOR DOMESTIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTION AND HIGHER  
TOBACCO PRICES MEAN HIGHER CIGARETTE PRICES.

3. THE GOG REACTED QUICKLY AND TOUGHLY TO THIS  
DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST THE GOVERNMENT  
HAS EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBED TO THE FARMERS' DEMANDS

AND PROVIDED SOME SORT OF RELIEF. IN THIS CASE THE  
PRODUCT, BURLEY TOBACCO, IS PRIMARILY USED DOMESTICALLY  
BUT HIGHER SUPPORT PRICES HERE WILL SURELY TRIGGER  
DEMANDS FOR HELP TO EXPORTED ORIENTAL VARIETIES OF  
TOBACCO WHICH ARE ALREADY SUFFERING IN INTERNATIONAL  
MARKETS FROM THE COMPETITION OF LOWER PRICED TURKISH  
ORIENTAL. ZACHARY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOBACCO, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978THESSA00091  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 THESSALONIKI A-10  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3016779  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TOBACCO FARMERS DEMONSTRATE FOR MORE GOVERNMENT AID  
**TAGS:** EAGR, PINT, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/475a20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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